

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 144—COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MEETING OF CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, DC**

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 144

Whereas November 17, 2000, is the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of Congress in Washington, DC;

Whereas Congress, having previously convened at the Federal Hall in New York City and at the Congress Hall in Philadelphia, has met in the United States Capitol Building since November 17, 1800;

Whereas President John Adams, on November 22, 1800, addressed a joint session of Congress in Washington, DC, for the first time, stating, "I congratulate the people of the United States on the assembling of Congress at the permanent seat of their Government; and I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the prospect of a residence not to be changed.";

Whereas, on December 12, 1900, Congress convened a joint meeting to observe the centennial of its residence in Washington, DC;

Whereas since its first meeting in Washington, DC, on November 17, 1800, Congress has continued to cultivate and build upon a heritage of respect for individual liberty, representative government, and the attainment of equal and inalienable rights, all of which are symbolized in the physical structure of the United States Capitol Building; and

Whereas it is appropriate for Congress, as the first branch of the government under the Constitution, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of Congress in Washington, DC, in order to focus public attention on its present duties and responsibilities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) November 17, 2000, be designated as a day of national observance for the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of Congress in Washington, DC; and

(2) the people of the United States be urged and invited to observe such date by celebrating and examining the legislative process by which members of Congress convene and air differences, learn from one another, subordinate parochial interests, compromise, and work towards achieving a constructive consensus for the good of the people of the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 367—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT TO PROVIDE A TIMELY AND OPEN APPEAL FOR SHAIBOUB WILLIAM ARSEL AND TO COMPLETE AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF POLICE BRUTALITY IN AL-KOSHEH**

Mr. MACK submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 367

Whereas on Friday August 14, 1998, two Coptic Christians, Samir Oweida Hakim and Karam Tamer Arsal, were murdered in Al-Kosheh, Egypt;

Whereas, according to a report from the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights

that was translated by the United States Embassy in Cairo, up to 1,200 Coptic Christians, including women and children, were subsequently detained and interrogated without sufficient evidence;

Whereas it is reported that the police tortured the detained Coptic Christians over a period of days and even weeks and that the detainees suffered abuses that included beatings, administration of electric shock to all parts of the body, including sensitive areas, and being bound in painful positions for hours at a time;

Whereas Egypt is a party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

Whereas the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment prohibits torture to obtain information and confessions such as the torture that reportedly took place in Al-Kosheh;

Whereas Egypt is party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that "(1) Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or in private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. (2) No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of his choice.";

Whereas some of the 1,200 detained Coptic Christians reported that the police chief made derogatory remarks about their religion and stated that the detainees were being targeted because of their religious beliefs;

Whereas the summary report of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights states that, as a result of the massive roundup and torture of the Coptic Christian community, a prosecution proceeded using confessions obtained under duress;

Whereas, according to the report, as translated by the United States Embassy in Cairo, one of the confessors "was detained for 18 days, beaten constantly, was not allowed food or water, and prevented from relieving himself" and "confessed only when they threatened to rape his two sisters" who "were brought to the police station, tortured and threatened with rape in front of him", and the detainee identified Shaiboub William Arsel as the murderer;

Whereas Shaiboub William Arsel, a Coptic Christian, was charged with the murders of Samir Oweida Hakim and Karam Tamer Arsal, was found guilty, and was sentenced on June 5, 2000, to 15 years of hard labor;

Whereas, according to the Associated Press story describing Shaiboub William Arsel's trial, "[t]he court based its guilty verdict on evidence and testimony provided by police, said the officials on condition of anonymity" and "gave no further details";

Whereas no known international observers were present at Shaiboub William Arsel's trial;

Whereas, on January 2, 2000, a mob of nearly 3,000 Muslims killed 21 Christians and destroyed and looted dozens of Christian homes and businesses in the village of Al-Kosheh; and

Whereas local Egyptian security forces failed to stop the massacre of Coptic Christians, and according to Coptic leader Pope

Shenouda III, "responsibility falls first on security forces... the problem lies among the authorities in the area where the incident occurred": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE APPEAL OF SHAIBOUB WILLIAM ARSEL AND THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION OF POLICE BRUTALITY IN AL-KOSHEH.**

The Senate hereby urges the President and the Secretary of State to encourage officials of the Government of Egypt to—

(1) allow for a timely and open appeal for Shaiboub William Arsel that includes international observers; and

(2) complete an independent investigation of the police brutality in Al-Kosheh.

**SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.**

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President and the Secretary of State, with the request that the President or the Secretary further transmit such copy to the Government of Egypt.

**RESOLUTION ON SHAIBOUB WILLIAM ARSEL**

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of Coptic Christians in Egypt who have been persecuted because of their religious beliefs. According to reports by both the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights and Freedom House in the United States, up to 1,200 Coptic Christians in Al-Kosheh, Egypt, were detained, interrogated, and subjected to police brutality in relation to the murders of two other Coptic Christians in 1998. After weeks of reported torture, these accounts suggest that confessions were obtained under duress that identified Shaiboub William Arsel as the murderer. Mr. Arsel was subsequently sentenced to 15 years of hard labor.

Over the last two years I have met with officials from the Egyptian government, including President Hosni Mubarak on several occasions in an attempt to address this issue quietly. Unfortunately, these discussions have failed to produce sufficient action on the part of the government of Egypt. As a result, I rise today to submit a resolution urging the President to encourage the Egyptian government to provide Shaiboub William Arsel with a timely and open appeal that would include international observers, and furthermore to complete an independent investigation of the police brutality in Al-Kosheh.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED**

**MIWALETA PARK EXPANSION ACT**

**MURKOWSKI AMENDMENT NO. 4290**

Mr. MACK (for Mr. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 1725) to provide for the conveyance by the Bureau of Land Management to Douglas County, Oregon, of a county